

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) A method of differentiating between attenuated and virulent strains of PRRSV, said strains having RNA which is cleaved into known fragment numbers or lengths after cleavage by a restriction enzyme, depending upon whether the strain is attenuated or virulent, said method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a sample containing PRRSV viral RNA;  
digesting said RNA with said restriction enzyme;  
determining fragment numbers or lengths after said digesting; and  
correlating said determined fragment numbers or lengths with said known fragment numbers or lengths.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, said restriction enzyme being NspI.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, said known fragment lengths including fragments of about 476, 380, and 173 base pairs in length.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, further including the step of isolating said RNA from said sample.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, said isolated RNA including a portion approximately 1 Kb in length.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, said 1 Kb portion being subjected to said digesting.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, further including the step of performing RT-PCR on said 1 Kb portion.

12. – 19. (Canceled)